

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A load-distribution method that transmits packets received from a network to two or more transmission destinations to distribute a load, comprising:

storing a weight value of distribution and an accumulated value calculated on the basis of said weight value according to actual transmission distribution for every transmission destination; and

transmitting the received packets, upon occurrence of a distribution event, to a transmission destination that has a smallest accumulated value.

2. (currently amended) A load-distribution apparatus that transmits packets received from a network to two or more transmission destinations to distribute a load, comprising:

storing unit which stores a weight value of distribution and an accumulated value calculated on the basis of said weight value according to actual distribution for every transmission destination; and

distributing unit which transmits the received packets, upon occurrence of a distribution event, to a transmission destination that has a smallest accumulated value.

3. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein inverses of said weight value are accumulated as said accumulated value by adding an inverse of said weight value to said accumulated value each time the distribution event occurs.

4. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein products of inverses of said weight value and packet sizes are accumulated as said accumulated value by adding a product of an inverse of said weight value and a packet size to said accumulated value each time the distribution event occurs.

5. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein products of inverses of said weight value and a weight of a process executed in a session are accumulated as said accumulated value by adding a product of an inverse of said weight value and the weight of the process executed in the session to said accumulated value each time the distribution event occurs.

6. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein products of inverses of said weight value and a weight of packet file type are accumulated as said accumulated value by adding a product of an inverse of said weight value and the weight of packet file type to said accumulated value each time the distribution event occurs.

7. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said distribution event occurs upon receiving a packet.

8. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said distribution event occurs upon starting a session.

9. (original) The load-distribution apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said storing unit is sorted by said accumulated value as a key.